

**AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

A marked-up copy of the changes to selected paragraph(s) is provided below. Please enter these changes to the specification in the record.

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Please **replace** paragraph beginning at page 6, line 20, as follows:

A1  
For the SNA identification parameters, a data link is identified by a Data Link ID (14 bytes) comprising the pair of attachment addresses. Each attachment address is represented by the concatenation of a MAC address (6 bytes wide) with a Service Access Point identifier (1 byte wide). Concerning

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Please **replace** paragraph beginning at page 8, line 16, as follows:

A2  
Data Link Switching (DLSw) is a rather complex bridging protocol that requires a full implementation of TCP/IP protocol stacks in the nodes implementing the Data Link Switching protocols. Implementing a full set of TCP/IP protocol stacks is not only a complex task but also imply that each Data Link Switching node is in effect a full functionality router with all the complexities and severe overhead caused by router to router protocols that are not really required, just to transport SNA data. As a bridging protocol, the amount of overhead due to broadcast traffic (which in the Data Link Switching case is obtained by sending multiple copies of a "broadcast" message to every other DLSw node within the Wide Area Network) is very high and ~~an~~ can very well be a severe problem within large Wide Area Networks (WANs).

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Please **replace** paragraph beginning at page 14, line 1, as follows:

A3  
Path Selection may be used for choosing the best path between source and destination nodes within the network based on the user's traffic characteristics, quality of service requirements and link utilization levels. Control Spanning Tree is for establishing and maintaining a routing tree among the network nodes, for using it to distribute control information

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A3  
Cont. (in parallel) including link utilization, and for updating the Topology Database of the nodes with new network configurations or link/node failures. Topology Update is for distributing and maintaining, using the Spanning Tree, information about the logical and physical network (including link utilization information) in every node. Congestion Control is used for enforcing the bandwidth reservation agreements between the network users and the network which are established at the set up time, for estimating actual bandwidth and for adjusting reservation if necessary during the life of the communication.

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